

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 24, 2000 LB 1363

Governor and the Governor listed for the newspapers and in the newspaper accounts a few days ago. And the second thing they did, besides identifying these areas where there were problems for these people, was to identify the fact that the problem was not that these rights weren't there, they've always been there for the most part, but that the community concerned, the Spanish-speaking peoples who work in the meat packing industry specifically, didn't have a very good way of exercising these rights and protecting their own rights for themselves and their families. And so what we're suggesting today is in accordance with and as an adjunct to what the executive branch has begun and that is to provide a person a position in the Department of Labor who would have both the duty...who'd have the duty of looking into the work relationship and the work situation with regard to the meat packing industry, and it sets out that this person would preferably be a person who speaks fluent Spanish and, essentially, asks them to go in and, with respect to these rights that have been identified by the Lieutenant Governor and Governor, to see that, in fact, the workers are treated properly. This may not be a position that should be there for all time, but it is clearly a response to the current historic situation and so we've made a provision or added a provision that the section would terminate in the year 2004. And it may be that Senator Connealy's task force would want it to end earlier or to do it a little differently, or they may want to extend it. This is a temporary tool that I think would be effective for effectuating and solving some of the problems that the executive branch has identified, and I would like to especially thank Senator Connealy for allowing his bill to be a vehicle for this particular amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers and Senator Beutler. We are now open for discussion on AM2981 to LB 1363. Senator Schimek, followed by Senator Connealy. Senator Schimek. Senator Schimek waives off. Senator Connealy.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you. Just rise in support of the amendment and thank Senator Chambers and Senator Beutler for bringing it.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Connealy. Senator Hilgert, on the amendment.